DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 427 760 IR 019 413

TITLE	Technology in Colorado Education. Strategic Plan 1994-2004.
INSTITUTION	Colorado State Dept. of Education, Denver.
PUB DATE	1994-08-00
NOTE	9p.; Written by the Technology Priority Team of School District Representatives.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Computer Uses in Education; Educational Finance; *Educational Objectives; *Educational Planning; *Educational Technology; Elementary Secondary Education; Financial Support; Information Networks; Mission Statements; School Districts; Statewide Planning; Telecommunications
IDENTIFIERS	*Colorado; Task Force Approach; Technology Integration; *Technology Plans; Vision Statements

ABSTRACT

This document states the vision for technology in Colorado education, lists requirements for accomplishing this vision, and specifies instructional, administrative, and networking needs. The following goals are then outlined with specific objectives for each goal: (1) technology should support curriculum and learning; (2) technology planning should be an ongoing process; (3) technology training should be ongoing and integral to all areas; (4) a support infrastructure must be created, strengthened, and maintained; (5) the State of Colorado should create, maintain, and support an effective statewide electronic network; (6) Colorado school districts should have management systems in place that facilitate electronic information transfer; (7) develop statewide politics for evaluation and purchasing of management hardware and software; and (8) funding for technology should be adequate, equitable and stable. The process used to write this plan is summarized; this process included an initial meeting of school districts, formation of task forces on administration, instruction, and networking to draft goals and objectives, and approval by the State Board of Education. Task force participants are listed. (AEF)

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ED 427 760

Colorado Department of Education

Technology in Colorado Education

Strategic Plan
1994 - 2004

Written by:
Colorado Department of Education
Technology Priority Team
School District Representatives

Date Written: August 1994

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A Vision for Technology in Colorado Education

We envision a lifelong learning environment in which the tools of technology support teaching and learning in all areas for all Colorado citizens, and serve as a catalyst for instructional reform.

In order to accomplish this vision, we believe that:

- students, educators, adult learners, library patrons and other stakeholders must have:
  - -- equitable access to the tools of technology
  - -- ongoing training in the skills required to make the best use of these tools

- the tools of technology will be used in creative and innovative ways to:
  - -- access, share and manage information
  - -- maximize building and district resources
  - -- provide access to resources that would otherwise not be available

- electronic links must be easily accessible and easy to use in order to facilitate communications between and among:
  - -- students
  - -- teachers, counselors and library media specialists
  - -- administrators
  - -- school districts
  - -- parents
  - -- universities
  - -- libraries
  - -- local, state and federal agencies
  - -- businesses
  - -- community groups

- the State of Colorado (CDE, the Office of the Governor, and the Colorado General Assembly) must take a leadership role in educational technology to promote:
  - -- equitable access regardless of geographic location or demographics
  - -- adequate funding for - acquisition of the tools of technology - ongoing training - ongoing support, repair and maintenance
  - -- standards for data transfer

- effective use of technology in Colorado's schools and libraries is necessary in order to:
  - -- maximize limited financial resources through cooperative innovation
  - -- enhance the investments that have already been made in technology
  - -- provide educational equity throughout the state
  - -- provide the widest possible access to all of the state's information resources

Instruction

We believe that the effective use of technology by students and teachers enhances learning. To prepare students for today and the future, Colorado school districts and libraries must provide equitable access to the tools that help build skills and the training necessary to use these tools effectively. All Colorado citizens should be able to use the tools of technology to create, acquire, process and present information in a variety of formats (e.g., textual, graphic, video, music, multimedia).

Administration

We believe that to meet increasing demands on financial resources, Colorado school districts need to make effective use of technology for management and administration. The tools of technology can improve classroom management and student record-keeping; reduce administrative burden; maximize building, district and community resources; reduce duplication of effort; facilitate cooperation between and among districts; provide timely, consistent, accurate information for decision-makers and coordinate efforts throughout the state.

Networking

We believe that in order to provide equitable access to information for administrators, teachers, students and parents in Colorado's educational system, there must be a statewide information network. This network should integrate data, voice and video and extend to every school district and library in Colorado. An effective statewide network would provide:

- access to public information for all citizens
- a common means of communication for administrators, teachers, students and parents
- a common method for the exchange of information
- greater availability of educational information for all citizens
- support for curriculum and instruction

In summary, we believe that effective use of technology will improve Colorado schools, classrooms and libraries -- thereby enhancing student success -- which will give the State of Colorado and its school districts a competitive advantage both economically and academically.

GOAL I: Technology should support curriculum and learning

A. Identify technology skills that all students should master, and suggest ways to integrate these skills in the content areas

B. Coordinate the use of technology with content standards in all subject areas

C. Ensure that curriculum drives technology decisions (purchases are consistent with long-range goals and curriculum plans)

D. Involve technology and/or media personnel in the curriculum development process for all subject areas

E. Ensure equitable access to the tools of technology for all Colorado citizens regardless of geographic location or demographics

GOAL II: Technology planning should be an ongoing process

A. Revise, update and evaluate the state technology plan on an ongoing basis

B. Tie the use of technology to school reform and restructuring efforts

C. Develop long-term technology plans at the district and BOCES level, and revise, update and evaluate them on an ongoing basis

D. Explore ways to stretch existing funding through the use of more efficient technologies and alternative strategies

E. Pursue a more effective technology requirement for teacher licensure and teacher training programs -- teaching teachers to teach differently utilizing technology tools

GOAL III: Technology training should be ongoing and integral to all areas

A. Provide ongoing opportunities for technology-related staff development

B. Develop regional training facilities where educators can learn how to use and test technology products

C. Provide one person at the district (or BOCES) level to oversee and coordinate technology planning, implementation and training efforts

D. Provide training opportunities that enable all school and library staff to become independent technology users

E. Make "effective use of technology" a key element in evaluations and goal plans for all staff

GOAL IV: A support infrastructure must be created, strengthened and maintained

A. Develop guidelines for quality control and evaluation of technology usage

B. Develop regional support centers or organizations which coordinate training, repair facilities, cooperative purchasing and other needs as appropriate

C. Develop coalitions to coordinate and streamline efforts

D. Promote cooperation and coordination of management services among school districts and related agencies

E. Create and maintain a resource bank of people who can provide system and software evaluation, technical assistance, and other support as needed

F. Work actively in the political arena to promote legislation and policies to support technology issues

GOAL V: The State of Colorado should create, maintain and support an effective statewide electronic network

A. Adopt and implement standards for connectivity to facilitate file transfer and electronic communications

B. Develop joint communications projects to connect classrooms, schools, district offices, BOCES, CDE, libraries, state agencies, colleges and universities in order to provide access to local, regional and global information sources

C. Establish links for cooperative learning projects

D. Enable all Colorado citizens to effectively access and use the network

E. Facilitate improved communications at all levels

F. Maximize participation and resource sharing for libraries and patrons

G. Provide funding for all school districts and libraries to network buildings and to access the statewide electronic network

GOAL VI: Colorado school districts should have management systems in place that facilitate electronic information transfer

A. Adopt and implement standards for management and transfer of information between and among buildings, districts, colleges, universities, CDE, libraries, local and state agencies, and nationally

B. Establish standard definitions (e.g., personnel, chart of accounts)

C. Define minimal district uses

D. Ensure the security and confidentiality of data

GOAL VII: Develop statewide policies for evaluation and purchasing of management hardware and software

A. Provide guidance to school districts for software and hardware purchases (e.g., equipment and staffing needs)

B. Promote cooperation and coordination of management services among school districts

C. Create and maintain a resource bank of people who can evaluate management systems and software and provide technical assistance

D. Publish technical reports on hardware and software systems for schools and school districts

GOAL VIII: Funding for technology should be adequate, equitable and stable

A. Develop and propose plans for long-term state funding for technology in education

B. Develop policies and structures for statewide and/or regional purchasing consortia to reduce costs

C. Explore ways to stretch existing funding through the use of more efficient technologies and alternative strategies

D. Explore and develop partnerships with business and higher education

E. Actively pursue grants and other funding opportunities

Process used to write this Plan:

1. All school districts were invited to participate in an initial meeting for writing this plan. At this meeting, a VISION for Technology in Colorado Education was agreed to, and three task forces were formed to write goals and objectives for the remainder of the plan.

2. Task forces on Administration, Instruction and Networking met twice to draft goals and objectives.

3. Two draft copies of the plan were mailed to all participants for review.

4. Final draft was submitted and approved by the State Board of Education on August 11, 1994.

The following people participated on the task forces:

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